

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2 and 4-17 are now pending. Claim 3 is canceled; claims 1, 5 and 6 are amended; and claims 9-17 are added herein. Support for the amendments can be found in the specification as originally filed at, for example, paragraphs [0009] to [0010].

An Information Disclosure Statement was filed on August 15, 2003. The Examiner is respectfully requested to acknowledge consideration of the references cited therein in responding to this Amendment.

Claims 1-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 over Greenberg et al. Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection.

Claim 1 has been amended to recite that the method utilizes a multi-electrode system in which plural cathodes are arranged to a single anode, or plural anodes are arranged to a single cathode, and each electrode can be operated independently. Greenberg does not teach such a multi-electrode system.

Greenberg does not teach each and every feature of claim 1 or the claims dependent thereon. Therefore, the rejection of claims 1-7 under 35 U.S.C. §102 should be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Claim 8 is rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103 over Greenberg. Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection.

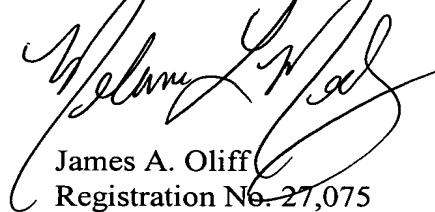
Claim 8 depends from claim 1. As discussed above, Greenberg does not teach, nor does it suggest, a method using a multi-electrode system in which plural cathodes are arranged to a single anode, or plural anodes are arranged to a single cathode, and each electrode can be operated independently. Therefore, the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103 should be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Claims 9-17 have been added to further define the invention. Claim 9 depends from claim 1 and is therefore patentable for at least the reasons discussed above with regard to claim 1. Claim 10 is an independent claim which incorporates all of the features of claim 1. Therefore, claims 10 and claims 11-17, which depend from claim 10, are also patentable for at least the reasons discussed above with regard to claim 1.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1, 2 and 4-17 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicant's undersigned representative at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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